(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the case has been challaned in the Court of Law; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e). No, Sir. However, a case of fraudulent refund amounting to Rs. 36,384/- on Pay Orders issued by Refund Office involving staff of Refund Office and some Booking Clerks of New Delhi Railway Station was detected by Vigilance Department of Northern Railway in 1995. Six employees were placed under suspension and taken up under DAR. Besides action under D&AR, five staff of Refund Office were transferred from their seats and three Booking Clerks were debarred from cash duties for five years.

Preventive, surprise and decoy checks by Commercial and Vigilance Organisations are conducted on a regular and sustained basis to tackle such irregularities.

Flex Technology

2107. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the technologies relating to high speed protocols in Radio Paging Service being introduced by the Government at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce the FLEX or ERMES technologies in the country;

(c) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d). DOT has licensed a number of Indian Registered companies for the operation of Radio Paging Service. As per tender/licence conditions, the service providers are required to use POCSAG Protocol. Requests have been received from these service providers to allow use of High Speed protocol, namely FLEX, ERMES Instead of POCSAG protocol which is presently used.

There are two upcoming and contending technologies in High Speed Protocols, namely FLEX, ERMES, which is a European standard.

Decision for introduction of high speed protocol in the paging service as against the POCSAG protocol provided in the licence agreement has not been taken yet.

Job Seekers from Tamil Nadu and Kerala in Gulf

2108. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the population of skilled, technicians, semi-skilled persons particularly belonging to Tamil Nadu and Kerala have declined in Gulf countries during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such decline of employed persons with a view to earn adequate foreign Exchange?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The number of persons from the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu who emigrated for work abraod, including in the gulf countries, after getting clearance/endorsements from Offices of Protectors of Emigrants (POE) during the years 1993,1994 and 1995 was as under:

	1993	1994	1995
Kerala	1,55,208	1,54,407	1,65,59
Tamil Nadu	70,313	70,525	65,77
	2,25,521	2,24,932.	2,31,36

It would be seen that while there was no decline in the number of persons going abroad for work from the State of Kerala, there was a marginal decline in the case of workers from Tamil Nadu, emigrating for work, after getting clearance endorsement from POE offices. This however, does not mean that there is an actual decrease in the number of persons emigrating for work from the State of Tamil Nadu, in absolute terms. Persons included in the category of professionals and skilled workers are not required to get emigration clearance from POE offices in case their passport is stamped as "Emigration Check Not Required". It is likely that a number of persons belonging to this category from the State of Tamil Nadu also emigrated for work during 1995. No information in respect of such emigrants is available.

STD Facility in Kishatwar

2109. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any telephone communication facility exists between Jammu and Paddar (Kishatwar) for public of that area;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide STD facility for the above area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no registered demand for telephone.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Electronic Telephone Exchanges (MILT-64)is planned and connecting Media is proposed via MCPC V-SAT.